

The Second Chance Act will go a long way towards this goal by providing transitional assistance to ex-offenders reentering their communities. By focusing on the major impediments that face ex-offenders, the Second Chance Act seeks to reduce recidivism and give those reentering society a new opportunity to turn their lives around. This legislation addresses the need for jobs, housing, and substance abuse/mental health treatment, and it works to reunite families and provide the appropriate training and rehabilitation for these individuals.

This bill will increase public safety and give millions of ex-offenders a chance to be positive productive citizens. I strongly urge my colleagues' support.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Mr. WELCH of Vermont (during Special Order of Mrs. JONES of Ohio), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-427) on the resolution (H. Res. 794) providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

□ 2130

WORKFORCE CAROLINA

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Workforce Carolina on its 20th anniversary of doing business in North Carolina. Workforce Carolina is a woman-owned business services company founded by Teresa Lewis that serves seven counties in the Fifth District of North Carolina. It assists employers throughout North Carolina's Triad region with job placement, employment screening, payroll and skills assessments. This company has been a growing part of the local economy and each year employs upwards of 3,000 people through its two offices in Mt. Airy and Elkin, North Carolina. In fact, it is the fifth largest employer in Surry County, North Carolina.

This year, Workforce Carolina was named one of the best places to work by the Triad Business Journal. The business journal also recognized Workforce Carolina as one of the fastest growing companies in the Triad in 2006.

I want to congratulate this fine company for its 20 years of services to its community and its commitment to excellence in the workplace. I wish all the good people at Workforce Carolina

many more years of successful business.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a book that has changed the course of history and left its mark on every level of our society. The Bible has been a God-given source of guidance for humanity for thousands of years and was a wellspring of wisdom and truth for the Founders of our Nation. As we approach National Bible Week, which is traditionally celebrated during the week of Thanksgiving, it is important to pause and reflect on how this Good Book has shaped the world, changed countless millions of lives, and brought humankind to a better understanding of our God and of our place in the world.

The Bible is a deep repository of fundamental and universal truth that has stood as a guide post for the generations. It teaches us how we ought to relate to our Creator and how to love our fellow human beings. During times of turmoil, confusion and strife, I can think of no more important source of guidance than the wisdom of this unchanging and inspired book.

The Bible offers us hope when circumstances are dire. The Bible is a source of strength when our human frailty brings us low, and when we are surrounded by darkness, as the psalmist wrote, the Bible "is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path." In all of its transcendent wisdom, the Bible does not fail to connect to our human condition. It kindles our joy and beckons us to know God regardless of our place in life.

Throughout my life, I have drawn on the words of the Bible to lead me and inform my moral compass. The Bible is an unshakeable pillar of truth that provides the surest of moral foundations for society's founded on and reliant on its inspired content. The Bible has nourished a dialogue of our Nation's public square and has bolstered the development of a strong moral identity for hundreds of years.

I encourage my fellow Americans to dig deep into the Good Book and discover for themselves what riches God's word has in store for them.

AMERICAN MEDICINE TODAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight to talk a little bit about health care. Of course, we are enmeshed in the great State Children's Health Insurance Program debate here this week, that load having been taken

by the Senate at the end of last week, the bill being sent off to the President, we expect a veto, and probably sometime before this week is over, we will, one more time, test whether or not that veto will be overridden or sustained. I suspect the numbers will not have changed from the last time when the veto was sustained. So we are going to continue to have this debate in front of us for some time.

I do want to talk about the State Children's Health Insurance Program in some detail. But I want to put it in context. I want to put it in the context of what is happening in American medicine today, the transformational process that is going on in American medicine today and how those rapid advances in science are being affected by the policies that we craft here in this body and indeed how that has happened several times during the last hundred years, and we may expect it to happen in the future, but why the decisions we make today in this body are so critical for the future of health care in this country not just for next November, not just for a year from now, but for decades into the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is so critical, so critical that we develop a near-term, a mid-term and a long-term plan or strategy when it comes to crafting our health care policy. Sadly, I don't think this House has really been engaged in that process. We have been more fascinated by the political aspects of the fight.

Mr. Speaker, indeed, medicine is at a critical crossroads. This is a time of great transformation within the science. Down one of these pathways is a whole new genre of personalized care, changes in information technology, changes in the study of the human genome, changes in protein science, changes in imaging, the speed of information transfer; and indeed a time of rapid learning all serve to increase value for the patient.

Late last week at a conference downtown, Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni, the head of the National Institutes of Health put it in terms of the four Ps. He described a type of medicine in the future which will be predictive, personalized, preemptive, and participatory.

Now, Mr. Speaker, down the other path leads to the continued expansion of the reach and grasp of the Federal Government. Could this path equate to increased value for the patient? Well, the answer might be yes, but history has not been kind to that experience so far for this type of trajectory. The trend tends to become process driven, intensely process driven to a greater and greater degree rather than creating a true patient-centered environment.

Medical care, in fact, could be rationed in some of the most insidious ways that medical care can be rationed, and that is in the treatment room itself. That is by not paying for the care, not paying for the imaging, not paying for the physician services,